

Report on Murray Grove's 250th Anniversary of Universalism Celebration for September, 2020.

Work began formally with a visioning conference in 2014 to explore possibilities. It was held across three days in the winter of 2014, at the Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center to conceive the 250th Anniversary Celebration in 2020.

It was in September of 1770 that John Murray preached of Universalism in Thomas Potter's chapel in Good Luck, New Jersey, which we commemorate as the beginning of 250 years of Universalism on this continent.

At the conference, ideas were generated across a wide spectrum of topics, from the times when Universalism took hold here in the colonies and then in the new nation....up to the present and the needs of today. Four sub-groups imagined results from a celebration in 2020 of the values, vision, and qualities of Thomas Potter and John Murray. These ideas were collected and then distilled into three sections.

These main foci for the planning were:

Experiential Projects and Activities

Creative Presentations

Message, PR, and Marketing

Projects and Activities: Social action pushing the boundaries of love, Pilgrimages from Good Luck, NJ (now Lakota Harbor) to Gloucester, MA, and/or locations in Philadelphia and on to George de Benneville's House in Oley Township perhaps including the Cloisters in Ephrata, PA, Experiential curricula, and conferences connecting with the UU Collegium, UU History Convocation and Universalist History Conferences

Creative Presentations: Re-enactment of Murray arriving on the NJ shore, Worship materials, Symposia on the TED Talk model, Traveling road show, Contemporary retelling of the Potter/Murray story with themes of the past as seen today, Reusing and reprinting materials from earlier Universalism celebrations

Message, PR, and Marketing: single page statement of mission/vision of the 250th celebration, PR materials, John Murray Day declaration, children's messaging about "the other Potter," strategic partnerships with all UU organizations, and research to enrich the historic background, brochures for ministers with ser-

mon themes, major presentation at LREDA Fall Conference in 2019, perhaps a "This American Life" program, and a celebration at the 2020 General Assembly.

Over the years since that meeting numerous meetings have been held with a smaller, dedicated group of planners. Work is ongoing and evolving. Partnerships are developing with organizations such as the UU Collegium and the UU History group. Funding sources are an important piece of this work as well.

I joined the group this spring. I participated in a planning conference call in mid-June and we are having an in-person meeting this month in Albany, NY on the Friday before the New York Universalist Convention's annual gathering. I am looking forward to attending and meeting a number of these hard-working, dedicated individuals!

Respectfully submitted, Fern Culhane